Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 L-03 OMB-01 AID-05 /058 W -------029048 092204Z /62

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, EGEN, EFIN, EAGR, EG.

SUBJECT: FRUIT AND VEGETABLE EXPORTS BANNED

REF: CAIRO 14644

- 1. MINISTER OF TRADE/SUPPLY ZAKARIA TEWFIK ANNOUNCED SEPT 7
 THAT ALL FRUITS AND VEGETABLES WOULD HENCEFORTH NOT BE
 AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT (PRESUMABLY WITHOUT EXPORT PERMIT).
 BAN IS SEEN AS LATEST GOE MOVE IN WAR AGAINST HIGH PRICES
 OF FRESH PRODUCE. PRESS COMMENTS THAT WITHOUT EXPORT OUTLET,
 PRODUCERS WILL BE PINCHED BY INCREASING STOCKS AND FORCED
 TO PUT LARGER QUANTITIES ON INTERNAL MARKET.
- 2. MINISTER OF TRADE ALSO ANNOUNCED OBLIGATORY PRICE LIST FOR CITRUS FRUITS, WHICH WILL COME ON THE MARKET ABOUT MID-OCTOBER. PRESS NOTES THIS IS FIRST TIME PRODUCE PRICE HAS BEEN SET IN ADVANCE OF SEASON AND DESCRIBES IT ATTEMPT TO ENCOURAGE GROWERS TO MAKE ADEQUATE SUPPLIES AVAILABLE.
- 3. COMMENT: DESPITE TONE OF PRESS PLAY, BAN IS NOT DRASTIC MEASURE. GOE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REGULARLY REQUIRES EXPORT LICENSES FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AS THEIR SEASON ENDS AND INTERNAL STOCK DWINDLES. BAN ON EXPORT OF POTATOES AND ONIONS WITHOUT PERMIT HAS BEEN IN EFFECT, FOR INSTANCE, SINCE MID-JULY. MANGO AND GRAPE SEASON IS FAST DRAWING TO END AND REGULAR EXPORTERS HAVE POINTED OUT THAT BAN WOULD BE IMPOSED

ON THOSE CROPS IN FEW WEEKS ANYWAY. PURPOSE OF BAN
JUST BEFORE END OF RAMADAN MAY BE ATTEMPT BY GOVERNMENT
TO FORCE RETURN TO MARKET SHELVES OF GRAPES AND OTHER PRODUCE WHICH
HAS DISAPPEARED, THUS SHOWING ITS EFFORTS
HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL. CITRUS CONTROL APPARENTLY
RESULTED FROM DECISION THAT CITRUS GROWERS, WHOLESALERS
AND RETAILERS, FEARING SAME GOE PRESSURE AS GRAPE GROWERS
HAVE EXPERIENCED, WOULD TRY TO DESTROY CROP TO KEEP
PRICES HIGH.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

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Subject: FRUIT AND VEGETABLE EXPORTS BANNED

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